Replacement of HPSEB Employees in NJPC

3486. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some request asking Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation (NJPC) Management to accept replacement of employees of HPSEB in their organisation either on retirement/resignation/death is pending with the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof with date of its pendency;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action on their long pending request;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) According to the agreement drawn on 24.1.2000 between the Government of India and the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, the Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation would accept HPSEB employees on deputation in replacement for the vacancies arising on account of (i) retirement, (ii) death, (iii) repatriation, (iv) resignation and (v) absorption in future.

The High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla vide its interim order dated 15.3.2000 passed in connection with Writ Petition No. 99/2000 directed to maintain *status quo.*

Legal Competence of PFC

3487. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an advertisement was put-up in a number of National and regional newspapers by the Power Finance Corporation dealing with the issues pertaining to strike by the employees of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the expenses incurred thereon;

(c) whether the PFC has the appropriate legal competence to do this; and

(d) if not, the names of the officials responsible and the action initiated against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The advertising contract was awarded to M/s. Rediffusion-Dentsu Young and Rubicam Ltd. The total expenditure on the campaign was Rs. 1,29,08,302/-. The expenditure was apportioned among the following CPSUs of Ministry of Power in the proportion given below:—

Name of PSU	%age
NTPC	63.9
NHPC	6.9
PGCIL	10.2
REC	6.7
PFC	12.3

The Government of U.P. has taken a bold decision to introduce reforms in the power sector. Unfortunately, the workers of UPSEB had decided to go on strike. The action of the workers had resulted in a lot of discomfort to the pubic and in the emergency situation a strong need was felt to keep the public informed of the pros & cons of the ongoing long drawn out strike so vitally affecting them. It was also necessary to inform the public of the reform process which had been initiated and to counteract the disinformation that was being spread in certain quarters. It was, therefore, considered desirable and essential to launch an awareness campaign through the Media so as to educate the public at large about the issues at stake. The campaign highlighted the reason for which the reforms had been introduced and the likely impact of these reforms. The campaign was appreciated and created the right climate for reforms.

Beneficiaries of National Old Age Pension Scheme

†3488. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of beneficiaries of National Old Age Pension scheme in Uttar Pradesh?

(b) what was the number of people targeted to be covered under this scheme during the year 1999-2000; and

(c) the district-wise details of beneficiaries of this scheme in Uttaranchal Garhwal and Kumaon divisions?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.